

From: Freedom of Information
Sent: 17 November 2020 15:43
To:
Subject: Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/422)

Dear

Freedom of Information Response (Our Ref: K/20/422)

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request dated 20 October 2020, reference K/20/422.

Your request read:

“Hello, I am making a Freedom of Information request about the university’s student hardship fund.

Please could you tell me

- * The fund’s balance (monthly, or in as regular intervals as you hold data for) since February this year
- * Whether the fund became empty and/or unavailable to students at any point during this period. If so, please provide details of when and for how long.

I’m not asking for any specific details of claims from the fund or anything that would possibly identify people, just its balance over time and whether it has been empty.

If the fund does not have a strictly defined ‘balance’ in the sense of money in a bank account, please provide information held on how much money is at the fund’s disposal to give to students, or similar.”

The University of Leeds holds this information.

The University of Leeds operates two hardship funds. The [Leeds Hardship Fund](#) (for students who fit the residency criteria for the undergraduate Maintenance Loan from the Student Loans Company) and the [International Leeds Hardship Fund](#) (for students who are ineligible for UK student maintenance funding on residency grounds).

We set aside £400,000 per annum for the hardship funds. Neither fund has a set balance, nor do they become empty; all eligible applications are funded.

In May 2020, we also launched the [2020 Student Fund](#), which provided additional hardship funding to support those most in need during the coronavirus crisis.

We hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions about this email, however, please do not hesitate to contact us on foi@leeds.ac.uk

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of our decision, you can request an

Internal Review. Requests for Internal Review should be made in writing using the following contact information:

Post: Mr D Wardle
Deputy Secretary
The University of Leeds
Leeds
LS2 9JT

Email: foi@leeds.ac.uk

Requests for Internal Review should be submitted within 40 working days of receiving the University's response to your request. Further information about how the University manages Freedom of Information requests and about our complaints procedure is also available on our website (www.leeds.ac.uk).

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the review/complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF.

Kind regards

Chloe Wilkins
Freedom of Information Officer

Secretariat
University of Leeds